

US App. No. 09/631,339
Response to 2/7/06 Office Action

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REMARKS

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to make proper reference to the claim element of claim 1. Claim 24 has been amended and new claims 26 and 27 have been added to claim further embodiments of the present invention. Support for amended claim 24 and new claims 26 and 27 is found in claims 3, 10 and 12 and throughout the specification.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over von Behrens (US 3,914,985) in view of Fite et al (US 5,142,143) taken further in view of Gerarde (US 3,518,804) and Hawes (US 3,556,659). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the grounds previously recited in the last response. However, to advance the prosecution of this matter applicants have cancelled claim 4 rendering this rejection moot.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner' determination that claims 1-3, 5-6, 9, 12, 15, 19, 20 and 23-25 are allowed. Accordingly those claims in addition to new claims 26 and 27 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request allowance of the claims, and passage of the application to issuance. If any further discussion of this matter would speed prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (434) 220-2866.

Respectfully submitted,


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